

**Minutes  
Nevada Organic Advisory Council Meeting  
14 December 2007**

Nevada Department of Agriculture  
350 Capitol Hill Avenue  
Reno, NV 89502

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order 1:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Council Members Present: V. Johnson, J. Smith, B. Quinlan, M. Litsinger, J. Davidson as proxy for S. Davidson.

Members of the Public: Ray Johnson, Steve Litsinger, Steve Slusser, Rick Lattin, Anna Bateman, Curtis Bateman, Clifford Shirk.

NDOA staff: Steve Marty, Ed Foster, Peggy McKie, John O'Brien

**3. Introductions**

**4. Approval Of Agenda**

The agenda for the December 14, 2008 OAC meeting was approved as offered.

**5. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Marcia Litsinger motioned to approve as offered, seconded by Bruce Quinlan. Minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0.

**6. Public Participation**

Rick Lattin discussed the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) grants available to organic farm system operators. Mr. Lattin mentioned that he had submitted a grant proposal for training to be conducted through Western Nevada College (WNC), which was to include information on hoop-house production, drip irrigation and CSAs, among other topics. Peggy Hughes was mentioned as the AMA contact person.

**7. Old Business**

A) Board of Agriculture actions regarding re-appointment of OAC members

Steve Marty noted that the Board of Agriculture had voted to approve the re-appointment of Organic Advisory Council members Bruce Quinlan, Dave Hall, and Marcia Litsinger. Mr. Marty also noted that NDOA's John O'Brien had presented to the Board a brief overview of the functions and powers of the Organic Advisory Council, as well as an informational piece on the feasibility of an NDOA managed organic livestock certification program. It was noted that the Board of Agriculture was not overly familiar with the National Organic Program, and that a need for educational materials for the Board existed.

B) Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman V. Johnson received a letter from Senator Ensign regarding actions on the 2007 Farm Bill, specifically regarding the Dorgan-Grassley amendment and its potential to provide funding for small farm operations. Copies of the letter are available, but the letter was not present.

Also mentioned was the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference, which is to be held February 29 through March 1, 2008 in Albuquerque. The conference flyer was available. The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) update on the regulation of spinach crops as well as the need for funding at ATTRA were also discussed.

#### C) Follow-up Reports

I a. Minutes from past meetings were reviewed to clarify the original intent of the No-GMO Nevada letter.

I b. In discussion of the No-GMO Nevada letter's objectives and audience several revisions to the letter's content were made. These revisions are reflected on the attached document. A motion to approve the 'GMO' letter and press release as amended and mail by January 31, 2008 was made by Marcia Litsinger and seconded by Bruce Quinlan. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. There was discussion on amending the mailing list in order to include market managers as well as relevant groups in southern Nevada. A motion to approve the mailing list as amended and get the list to S. Davidson as soon as possible was put forth by Jim Smith and seconded by Marcia Litsinger. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0.

II. Ray Johnson announced that the Friends of Nevada Organics Org had received its 501 C designation as of December 1, 2007. A copy of the relevant document was provided to NDOA to keep on file.

III. The OAC Budget Action Committee reported on their October 9, 2007 meeting and reviewed the final OAC budget. A motion to hold a Budget Action Committee meeting on January 4, 2008 in order to establish a final date and program for the first OAC workshop in March 2008 was put forth by Marcia Litsinger and seconded by Bruce Quinlan. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

#### D) NDOA Certification Staff Report

NDOA's John O'Brien was available to discuss proposed budget cuts. Mr. O'Brien stated that proposed budget cuts for NDOA had been submitted, but that the information is confidential. There was some discussion as to the eligibility of OAC funds for budget cuts, and Mr. O'Brien assured the OAC that the funds were in the general fund for NDOA and therefore subject to budget reductions. Mr. O'Brien also stated that no budget reduction proposals had been approved and suggested that the OAC continue to work according to their budget outline. Peggy McKie provided information on two new certified organic operations in Nevada. Mrs. McKie also stated that she would be attending an organic conference at Asilomar, CA, and that NDOA employee Steve Marty would be attending the NASOP training in Louisville, KY. Chairman Johnson noted that there was the potential for OAC funds to help pay for such training.

### **8. New Business**

#### A) Discussion of OMRI newsletter for certified entities.

The OAC discussed contacting OMRI in order to obtain copies of the bi-annual OMRI newsletter, which would be sent to entities certified with NDOA. NDOA's Ed Foster noted that a copy machine was available at NDOA and suggested to request OMRI's permission to reproduce the newsletter. A motion to approach OMRI to reproduce the bi-annual newsletter for distribution to certified entities was made by Jim Smith and seconded by Marcia Litsinger. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

B) Steve Marty reviewed the procedures for submitting travel and per diem claims for OAC members. Forms were completed for the 12/14 meeting, and additional forms were provided for future events.

C) The procedure for expenditure of OAC budgeted operating funds as well as the authorization of expenditures was outlined in an SOP document provided by Steve Marty. The OAC made several revisions to the SOP, which are reflected in the attached document. A motion to approve

the SOP as amended for OAC expenditures was set forth by Marcia Litsinger and seconded by Jim Smith. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0.

D) Review of By-laws

A copy of the OAC By-laws was issued to each OAC member for review before the next meeting.

**9. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next OAC council meeting was scheduled for February 8, 2008. The next OAC Budget Action Committee meeting was scheduled for January 4, 2008.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.